

CLAIMS

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

- 5 1. A method comprising:
 disabling selected functions of a computer system in response to an error; and
 issuing a set of diagnostic instructions to a processor.
2. The method of claim 1, further comprising:
10 incrementally enabling the selected functions until the error is reproduced.
3. The method of claim 1, further comprising:
 selecting the set based on a history of errors encountered by the computer system.
- 15 4. The method of claim 3, wherein the selecting further comprises:
 selecting the set based on a class of the error.
5. The method of claim 1, wherein the disabling further comprises:
 setting a function disable register that is connected to a plurality of inhibit
20 switches.
6. An apparatus comprising: /
 means for disabling selected functions of a computer system in response to an
 error;
25 means for issuing a set of diagnostic instructions to a processor in the computer
 system; and
 means for incrementally enabling the selected functions until the error is
 reproduced.

7. The apparatus of claim 6, further comprising:

means for selecting the set based on a history of errors encountered by the computer system.

5 8. The apparatus of claim 7, wherein the means for selecting further comprises:

means for selecting the set based on an error class.

9. The apparatus of claim 6, wherein the means for disabling further comprises:

10 means for setting a function disable register that is connected to a plurality of inhibit switches.

10. The apparatus of claim 9, further comprising:

means for saving status of the function disable register and the error in a history after the error is reproduced.

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11. A signal-bearing medium encoded with instructions, wherein the instructions when executed comprise:

detecting an error;

disabling selected functions of a computer system in response to the error;

20 issuing a set of diagnostic instructions to a processor; and

incrementally enabling the selected functions until the error is reproduced.

12. The signal-bearing medium of claim 11, further comprising:

selecting the set based on a history of errors encountered by the computer system.

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13. The signal-bearing medium of claim 12, wherein the selecting further comprises:

selecting the set based on an error class.

14. The signal-bearing medium of claim 11, wherein the disabling further comprises:

setting a function disable register that is connected to a plurality of inhibit switches.

15. The signal-bearing medium of claim 14, further comprising:

5 saving status of the function disable register and the error in a history after the error is reproduced.

16. A computer system comprising:

 a processor;

10 a plurality of inhibit switches to selectively enable and disable a corresponding plurality of functions of the processor;

 a function disable register to control the plurality of inhibit switches; and

 a shift unit to incrementally change the contents of the function disable register.

15 17. The computer system of claim 16, further comprising:

 a sequence pad control register to introduce delay into selected operations of the computer system.

18. The computer system of claim 17, further comprising:

20 a diagnostic history entry comprising contents of a failing instruction address register, contents of the function disable register, and contents of the sequence pad register.

19. The computer system of claim 16, further comprising:

25 a memory connected to the processor; and

 an additional inhibit switch to selectively enable and disable a function of the memory, wherein the function disable register is to control the additional inhibit switch.

20. The computer system of claim 16, further comprising:

a bus connected to the processor; and
an additional inhibit switch to selectively enable and disable a function of the bus,
wherein the function disable register is to control the additional inhibit switch.